

# LAFFITTE of LOUISIANA

BY MARY DEVEREUX  
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON  
(Copyright, 1902, by Little, Brown and Company)  
(All Rights Reserved)

## CHAPTER III.

The gray was flushing with rose tints from the coming sun when a loud knocking upon the entrance door aroused the soldier on guard in the hall.

"Open the door!" a voice shouted peremptorily. "Tatrot! Pierre! A thousand devils! You fools inside there, open the door, I say!"

The disturbance brought Grelgore from his improvised couch at the rear of the hall; and climbing the ladder, he pushed his head through the broken window for a sight of who might be outside.

"Who are you?" demanded the young man standing before the door, his voice indicating surprise as he looked at the face of the soldier above him.

"That is what I should like to have you tell me of yourself, m'sieur," answered Grelgore, in his usual dry manner, his not over friendly eyes noting the details of the attire worn by the aristocratically clad visitor.

"Dame!" now exclaimed the latter, evidently more angry than before. "What business can it be of yours? Who are you, that dare cavil over opening to me the door of my father's house?"

"He is but one; and there are two of us to handle such a cocksparrow as I could easily overcome alone, with one hand," said Grelgore scornfully, as the bars fell, and Etienne entered, somewhat paler than usual, and his hair and raiment disheveled from an all-night's concealment in one of the outbuildings of the chateau.

Wishing to see the baron, in order to press his demand for more funds, the young man had, unannounced, come down from Paris, and chanced to arrive the evening before, during the wildest part of the melee.

He was by this time accustomed to

her to take the young officer into her confidence. Looking up into the cold, clean-cut face before her, she asked, "You will not leave here to-day, Monsieur?"

"Perhaps; I cannot decide until later."

"Before you go, monsieur, I would take it as a great favor should you let me ask of you some advice as to a matter concerning him you seem to love." And she glanced at Jean, who was standing in the doorway, with his back to them.

The officer, if he felt any surprise, showed none, for he answered her with kindly assurance. He then joined Jean, and the two went below, where breakfast awaited them.

The two dead soldiers were buried early in the afternoon; but the stars were coming out when the door of the great vault was closed, and the late baron left to sleep with his ancestors.

Etienne, silent and repelling, stood by, vouchsafing little notice of anyone about him. Jean had taken care to keep away from his half-brother; and the latter replied with scant courtesy to the lieutenant's salutation, when they met for the first time, as the baron's body was borne from the house.

Margot was not of those who had stood about the tomb. Etienne's temporary absence from the house being assured, she had improved the opportunity to open the secret panel and remove the metal box and bags of coin, which she hid away amongst her own belongings. She proposed, with Jean and Pierre, to seek a new home in Toulon, where a large number of Royalists, together with others who had suffered persecution from the Revolutionists, had found refuge.

Presently she saw Etienne enter the drawing room, where Jean had remained, having refused to leave the

"'Tis false!" declared Margot, forgetting everything like habitual respect.

"It is not," Etienne retorted; "and you are a liar when you say otherwise."

Jean, with paling face, his burning eyes fastened upon his brother, seemed stunned.

"It is not," Etienne repeated less vehemently, "as Pere Huot could tell you, if you asked him. My mother, the late baronne, died but three years ago, in, I regret to say, a madhouse, at Paris. But mad, or sane, she was the baronne; and that other woman, the mother of your young whelp there, was no wife of my father's, as you must now admit. The church would never recognize her as his wife, he being a true Catholic, and no priest performing the marriage ceremony between him and that cursed Huguenot."

Etienne uttered an epithet too vile for repetition—an epithet that stung to madness the listening boy, who, with a cry of rage, such as might come from a new Cain awakened to life, snatched a dagger from a bric-a-brac strewn upon a near-by table, and, springing upon Etienne, drove the rusted blade into his side.

The slight form reeled and fell, a crumpled heap, upon the floor, while Margot, with a shriek that brought the soldier flying from his post in the hall, fell upon her knees, and, tried, with her apron, to stanch the flowing blood.

Jean had turned to flee; but an iron grip on his shoulder held him, and, looking up, he fell to trembling and shivering, as he met the stern eyes of his friend, looking as he had never before seen them.

"Where would you go?" inquired a low voice, whose measured calm matched the look of the eyes.

The boy stood silent.

The lieutenant, still holding him fast, moved to where Margot and the soldier were kneeling beside Etienne, and Jean met the wild-eyed regard of the wounded man, from whose white lips now poured a flood of profanity, mingled with threats of vengeance against the boy, whom he ordered to leave the apartment.

The lieutenant turned away with a scornful laugh, half-suppressed, but which Jean heard; and, taking heart, the lad looked beseechingly upward, as if asking pardon for his mad act.

"Come away—come away, my De Soto," whispered the officer; and bending he kissed the tear-wet cheek. "He has a venomous nature, truly, and one cannot be greatly blamed for treating a dog as he deserves."

Then, gathering up the papers at which he had been looking, he thrust them into his pocket, and motioned Jean to follow him from the room.

Here Margot joined them, on her way to summon Tatrot, that he might assist the soldier in getting Etienne to his own apartments.

Early next morning the household was astir—all save Etienne, who, although his wound proved to be but slight, kept to his bed, with Tatrot in attendance; and before noon all but these two had left the chateau and set out upon their various routes—Margot with Jean and Perry, for Toulon, in company with the soldier Grelgore, sent by the lieutenant to escort them.

At a fork in the highway, where their roads parted, Jean turned in his saddle to look after the slender figure riding away at the head of his men.

Turning his head, as if he felt the boy's longing eyes, the lieutenant smiled and waved his hand. Then, putting spurs to his horse, he rode swiftly from sight, followed by his soldiers.

After a last backward look toward the vacant space that had held the one he loved best on earth, Jean started his horse onward, to overtake the lumbering vehicle, driven by Pierre, and containing Margot and all the travelers' belongings. (To be continued.)

## He Obeyed His Orders.

John was the new English butler in the employ of a Philadelphia family. When John first came he was told by the mistress of the house that she was always at home to her sister, who was a frequent visitor to the house. The sister in question was pointed out to John on her next visit, and the mistress was satisfied in her mind that John would obey orders.

Every time the sister called John would admit the welcome guest with reverent respect. It was her custom to ask him before entering if his mistress was in, and it always happened that she was, so John would nod and profoundly bow her in.

But one day it happened that his mistress was out when the sister called. When John went to the door she, as usual, asked if her sister was in, to which John nodded in the affirmative and bowed her in. John's business at that moment took him out in the yard, and he left her in the parlor.

Divesting herself of her wraps, the visitor began to look for her sister, but seeing no signs of her downstairs concluded that she was on one of the upper floors, and went upstairs. Of course, she failed to find her, and, thinking that the butler might be mistaken, went downstairs to inquire of him again. She found him out in the yard, and calling to him, asked if he thought his mistress had gone out, as she could not find her in the house.

John, after meditating a moment, replied:

"Yes, mum, she has 'out.'"  
"Out!" exclaimed the sister; "why, I thought you said she was at home?"  
"Yes, mum," came the solemn reply, "but she-tel' me that she was always at 'ome to you!'"—Lippincott's Magazine.

## SHIP SUBSIDY MEASURE PASSED BY THE SENATE

Only Five Republicans Voted Against the Bill, Which Establishes Thirteen New Contract Mail Lines.

Washington. — The senate on Wednesday cast its first ballot on the subsidy shipping bill, which was passed by a vote of 38 to 27. All the votes for the bill were by Republican senators and five Republican senators voted with the Democrats in opposition. They were Messrs. Burkett, Dooliver, La Follette, Spooner and Warner. The vote on the bill was preceded by action on a number of amendments, and this by an entire day of debate. Many important amendments were accepted, but only in one case was a modification agreed to that was not in accordance with the wishes of the managers of the bill. The exception was on an amendment offered by Mr. Spooner eliminating the provision giving half pay to members of the naval reserve who have served less than six months.

As passed, the bill establishes thirteen new contract mail lines and increases the subsidy to the Oceanic line running from the Pacific coast to Australasia. Of the thirteen new lines three leave Atlantic coast ports, one running to Brazil, one to Uruguay and Argentina, and one to South Africa; six from ports on the Gulf of Mexico, embracing one to Brazil, one to Cuba, one to Mexico and three to Central America and the Isthmus of Panama; four from Pacific coast ports, embracing two to Japan, China and the Philippines direct; one to Japan, China and the Philippines via Hawaii, and one to Mexico, Central America and the Isthmus of Panama.

The bill also grants a subsidy at the rate of \$5 per gross ton per year to cargo vessels engaged in the foreign trade of the United States and at the rate of \$5.50 per ton to vessels engaged in the Philippine trade, the Philippine coastwise law being postponed until 1909. Another feature of the bill is that creating a naval reserve force of 10,000 officers and men who are to receive retainers after the British practice. Vessels receiving subsidies are required to carry a certain proportion of naval reserve men among their crews. The aggregate compensation for mail lines is about \$5,000,000 annually. No steam vessel of less than 1,000 tons is to receive aid under the bill.

## EXPECT TROUBLE IN CHINA.

Army Officers Are Apprehensive of an Outbreak in the Flowery Kingdom.

San Francisco.—Major C. A. Devol, general superintendent of the transport service in San Francisco, shares with other army officers the apprehension of trouble in the far east. In an interview he said:

"The awakening of China is here. There were the same rumblings heard previous to the late Boxer outbreak. Every army officer expects trouble in China. An officer who arrived here Wednesday from Washington on his way to China said that he knew the war department had received news from China, but was not making it public."

The transport Meade is now on her way to Manila, loaded with troops. The Warren and Crook lie here ready to go into commission at any time orders come from Washington to get them ready.

## INUNDATED BY TIDAL WAVE.

Wall of Water Engulfs Ecuador Village, Following Earthquake Shocks.

Guayaquil.—Passengers from the province of Esmeraldas, in the extreme northwestern part of Ecuador, who arrived here Wednesday, report that earthquake shocks were felt there January 31 and that several towns in the province of Esmeraldas and Manabá were seriously damaged. At Esmeraldas City several houses collapsed, including the government house. The village of Pinguiti, near the Columbian frontier, was inundated by a tidal wave and many inhabitants were drowned. Ninety bodies were washed ashore at Tumco. At Rio Verde several houses collapsed. During the eight days twenty-five shocks were felt in Esmeraldas. The Columbian village of Guacada also was inundated by a tidal wave, and 200 persons were drowned. The eruption of the Columbian volcano of Cumbal caused the earthquake.

Two Burned to Death and One Dies From Excitement.

Fort Scott, Kans.—Two persons were burned to death, another died from over-exertion and excitement in trying to save the victims, and five others were injured in the wreck early Wednesday at Columbus, of the Joplin express, northbound, on the St. Louis & San Francisco railway. The train caught fire following the wreck and with the exception of the Pullman was consumed.

Great Tunnel Planned by the Western Pacific.

San Francisco.—The Western Pacific has perfected plans for a tunnel that promises to become known as one of the most notable engineering achievements in the railroad history of the west. The tunnel will be 12,085 feet in length and will penetrate the Goshute range at Fowler Lake pass, in the eastern section of Nevada. Tunnel to be finished in eighteen months. It will shorten the line six and a quarter miles.

## BOMBS LURK IN RUSSIAN SCHOOLS

Children Protest Against Reactionary Teacher and Try to Kill Him.

A Number of Crimes Have Been Committed by Mere Boys—Fifteen-Year-Old Lads Being Found With Bombs in Their Possession.

St. Petersburg.—The official messenger prints the usual weekly summary of violent political crimes and seizures of bombs, explosives and weapons, filling over two columns.

The record consists mainly of a long enumeration of cities where the terrorists have been active. They occupy St. Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, Kiev, Nizhni Novgorod, Vilna, Warsaw, Samara, Kursk, Sebastopol, Kazan, Tiflis, Riga and other principal cities where officials have been killed, patrols fired on, bombs, weapons and dynamite seized or postoffices, banks or other state institutions attacked. A number of the crimes were committed by mere boys.

The dispatches tell of a grammar school lad wounding a reactionary teacher at Kharkeff, and the arrest at Berdicheff of a fifteen-year-old lad having three loaded bombs in his possession.

## TRIUMPH OF SHEEP MEN.

Idaho State Veterinarian Law Held to Be Unconstitutional.

Boise, Ida.—In the district court Judge Stewart on Thursday held the state veterinarian law unconstitutional. If his decision is sustained by the supreme court it will wipe out the livestock sanitary board and the office of state veterinarian. The old state sheep inspection act will, however, be revived. It is found by the court that the legislature sought to repeal the latter law by mere reference to it, extending the duties of sheep inspector to the new office of state veterinarian. The litigation arose over an order that all sheep south of the Salmon river be dipped a second time last year before being driven in from the summer range. A number of sheepmen in Washington and Canyon counties refused on the ground that their sheep were free from scab and that the board had no authority to order them dipped a second time.

MINERS AND OPERATORS MEET.

Efforts of Leaders of Both Sides to Prevent Big Strike.

New York.—The special committee of the union anthracite coal miners of Pennsylvania appeared before the presidents and other officials of the coal mining companies on Thursday, stated in general terms the proposition it desired the operators to grant, and then retired to formulate in detail the demands. Before the conference adjourned two sub-committees of seven men each were appointed, one representing the miners and the other the operators, to take up jointly the questions at issue and endeavor to reach an agreement. When these committees have completed their work they will make a report to the conference.

## Big Liner Went Aground.

Boston, Feb. 15.—For fourteen hours on Thursday the big Leyland line steamer Devonian, from Liverpool, lay helpless on Scituate Beach, ten miles to the south of the harbor's entrance, for which she was heading when she went aground. Although she was heavily pounded during the day by a surf which prevented tugs from getting within hailing distance of her, the revenue cutter Gresham managed to send a line aboard the ship and then, with her big screw revolving and the Gresham pulling, the Devonian floated. The steamer apparently sustained little damage.

## CHARGES AGAINST JEROME.

Said to Have Entered Into Conspiracy With Street Railway.

New York.—A special to the Tribune from Albany, N. Y., says: Charges, including subornation of perjury, bribery of lawyers, misconversion of millions of dollars, and the enlistment of District Attorney Jerome in a conspiracy to whitewash the offenders were made against the Metropolitan Street Railway company and its officials at a hearing before the assembly committee on ways and means on Thursday.

Annual Plea of Woman Suffragists.

Washington.—Two or three hundred women members of the National Equal Suffrage association on Thursday made their annual plea to the senate committee of women suffrage for the right to exercise the franchise. Senator Bacon presided. Mrs. Shaw made an argument for the passage of a bill giving women the right to vote for members of the house of representatives. If compelled to go to each of the states a long time would be necessary to secure results.

## FORMER PRESIDENT M'CALL WORRIED HIMSELF TO DEATH

Leader of the New York Life Did Not Long Survive Final Blow Dealt By Directors' Report.

New York.—John A. McCall, until recently president of the New York Life Insurance company, died at 5:33 p. m. Sunday at the Laurel house in Lakewood, N. J., where he had been taken three weeks ago in the hope that the change might benefit his health, which had suffered a breakdown two months ago. The news of the death was not given out by the family until some time after the end.

It was announced that Mr. McCall's death was due to enlargement of the liver and the end had been peaceful and without pain.

Mr. McCall's physical breakdown occurred about the close of the investigation of life insurance affairs in this state by the legislative committee December last. The report of the committee is expected to be submitted to the legislature at Albany early this week. Mr. McCall's examination before the committee was a severe one, and the ordeal he underwent in rehearsing in detail the affairs of the company and in divulging transactions about which the general public was ignorant, worried him greatly, it was said.

## BURIAL OF A KING.

Danish Monarch Placed in Chapel With Ancestors of Past Thousand Years.

Roskilde, Denmark, Feb. 13.—In the magnificent old Gothic church here Sunday afternoon the body of King Christian IX, amid the thunder of guns, the sonorous tones of the organ and the blare of trumpets, were laid to rest with the long line of his predecessors on the Danish throne whose remains repose in the chapel in Roskilde's stone fane.

The coffin lay in the chancel beneath a black and gold bladachin supported by high officers in full dress uniforms. The only decoration on it was a golden branch, a tribute from the children of Denmark. Leaning against the altar rails were floral tributes from foreign monarchs and members of the Danish royal family. The choir was filled with members of the clergy, whose quaint black gowns and white ruffs formed a striking background to the blaze of gold-laced uniforms of the diplomatic body occupying the corner of the choir. Here Mr. O'Brien, the American minister, in simple evening dress, was a remarkable exception. As Mr. O'Brien was personally representing President Roosevelt, the Danish government had given him an attaché of honor, M. Scavenius of the foreign office.

## CASTRO NEEDS A BEATING.

Frenchman Says a Revolution Would "Clear Up Things" in Venezuela.

Paris.—M. Taigny, the former French charge d'affaires at Caracas, in an interview with the Matin's correspondent at Liverpool, said that the unanimity of the diplomats in Venezuela against his expulsion was a great surprise to President Castro, who until the last moment had relied on the moral support of a certain power.

M. Taigny, according to the correspondent, is convinced that a revolutionary movement for the overthrow of President Castro is in preparation. He had been approached by several of the revolutionary leaders during his sojourn in Venezuela, but owing to his position as the representative of France, he was obliged to hold aloof from politics.

In M. Taigny's opinion, the correspondent adds, a revolution would clear up the present awkward situation in Venezuela.

## PRIEST MURDERED IN MEXICO.

Two Other Instructors Are Fatally Wounded by Indian Bandits.

Mexico City.—Henry Albert Bourjoir, a young French priest and instructor in the normal school in Puebla, was, with three other teachers, attacked in the mountains near that region by a party of Indians. Bourjoir was killed and two other priests were fatally wounded. The state government officials are searching for the Indians.

## Spent Quiet Sunday.

Washington.—Representative and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, who were married at the White house Saturday, passed the Sunday very quietly at "Friendship," the country home of John R. McLean at Tennytown, which they are making their temporary headquarters. The weather was pleasant most of the day and the couple took a stroll around the beautiful grounds surrounding the place. The gates of the grounds were closed during the day, and it was said at the house tonight that there had not been any callers.

## Depositors Get Money.

Chicago.—Twenty-one depositors of the defunct bank of America were given checks for their money Sunday, the bank having been open between 10 o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Only \$2,000 remains due to savings accounts. At the close of the day's business the announcement was made that the bank would remain closed, but that those still having savings claims would be given their money at the office of Attorney C. S. Darrow.



"And springing upon Etienne, drove the rusted blade into his side."

such outbreaks; and suspecting quickly the position of affairs, had lost no time in finding a hiding place in a grove, not far from the house.

At the tidings of his father's death, a new expression came to Etienne's face, softening its coldness; but this quickly changed when, in reply to his query as to who was in command of the escort, Grelgore answered, "Lieutenant Bonaparte."

An oath that made both soldiers stare burst from the young man's lips.

"I will go to my apartments," he added, with a return of all his haughtiness; "and do both of you see to it that I am not disturbed by your officer."

With this he stalked through the hall, and up the stairway, shuddering as he passed the blood-stains upon the floor.

Etienne's steps on the upper stairs and along the oaken-floored hall brought Tatrot to the door of the room where lay the two wounded soldiers, one of whom was evidently dying, while the other was sleeping quietly.

"Ah, Monsieur Etienne, is it you, sir?" Then, correcting himself with "Pardon—Monsieur le Baron," he burst forth in a quivering voice, "It is surely a sad return for you."

Somewhat softened by the old man's words, and now realizing more fully the horrors of the night before, Etienne replied in an unusually kind fashion. But when he ended by ordering that a repast be brought to his rooms, Tatrot's face showed a surprise he dared not voice; for he wondered that his new master could think of sustenance for himself, so soon after coming upon the scene of his recent loss.

Margot had slept little during the night, but lay thinking of what changes were likely to come, now that the baron was dead. An intuition warned her to secure the money and valuables which the baron had entrusted to her care; to take them from their present hiding place, and have them at hand, in case some additional disaster should come. And, too, bearing in mind her master's command that she remove Jean from Etienne's rule in case of that befalling which now had come to pass, her perplexed brain had at length evolved a plan which seemed both wise and feasible.

But before attempting to put it into execution, a curious impulse urged